

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7-15 and objected to claims 4-6, but indicated claims 4-6 as allowable if rewritten in independent formation. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 14. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 7-15 as being, "anticipated by Hoppe et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,515,488 ('Hoppe')." During an Interview conducted on June 27, 2004 between Examiner Charles Rones and the undersigned, Applicants discussed the differences between claims 1-3 and 7-15. As stated in the Interview Summary of July 13, 2004, "Applicant and Examiner discussed a polygonal having 3 or more line segments. Applicant expressed intent to add language discuss the "n" polygonal being greater than 5 segments. This language would distinguish over the cited art discussed." In actuality, Applicant and Examiner discussed the fact that at least the "n" of n-polygonal being at least 5 segments would distinguish the art of record. By this amendment, Applicants have made such amendment. As such, Applicants believe that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 7-15 should be withdrawn. Applicants further believe that each of the claims of the present application are patentable over the references of record.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

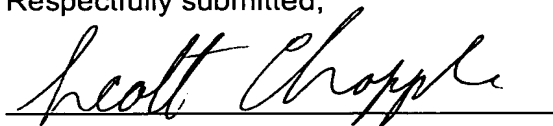
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 593-9900.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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